



San Ramon Police Department Crime Prevention News

Keeping you in the
know!

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SCHOOL ZONES—WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Traffic Sgt. Dave White

School zones can be very busy and hazardous places to be during morning and afternoon drop off times which requires everyone to pay close attention to their surroundings whether you are a pedestrian or the driver of a vehicle. Some things that should be considered are;

Speed – even though the speed limit for vehicles in a school zone with children present is 25 mph, slower speeds would be more prudent since a vehicle traveling a 25mph covers approximately 37' per second. If you factor in the average perception reaction time of 2 seconds, this means you travel about 74' at 25mph during the time you recognize and react (this does not include stopping distance) to a child that is running or riding a bike out between parked vehicles or has unexpectedly left the curb at the crosswalk or elsewhere.

This means you travel past 4 parked vehicles as your foot hits the brake pedal and begin coming to a stop or steering to avoid a tragedy. This information should be taken into account by pedestrians so as to give the driver of an approaching vehicle a reasonable chance to see you and yield safely. Remember, even if you believe you have the right of way don't demand your right against common sense and be the victim of life long conse-

quences, whether your at fault or not in a vehicle/ pedestrian collision there will be consequences to live with.

Time – Make sure you leave home with plenty of time to get to school without having to hurry; this will give everyone more time to be courteous to others who are driving or walking to school. Society seems to have made it common place to leave just enough time to get to their destination if all goes according to plan. The best advice is to "hope for the best and plan for the worst"; what if you have car trouble, encounter a traffic accident or the power goes out for those wonderful traffic signals? Did you leave enough time to get to your destination in case you are delayed by one or more of these events? Wouldn't it be nice to leave enough time to enjoy your favorite Starbucks drink while listening to your favorite music in the slow lane of traffic and get to work just a little early? How much better do you think your day would go? This will take a little preparation but the results are children getting to school safely and a better mood all day for the child and Parent.

Lastly – In case you are not aware, the San Ramon Police Department has taken a more proactive role in

working with your school administration officials to make some effective changes in the way traffic is routed near school zones. You may see traffic cones in places you did not see them before or you may see an officer reminding drivers not to stop in the traffic lane while waiting to drop off or pick up children. The goal is to make it safer, efficient and expedient when it comes to dropping off or picking up those little children that mean the world to us.



TO REPORT A CRIME

EMERGENCY

9-1-1

Non- Emergency

(925) 973-2779

Abandoned Vehicles

(925) 973-2700

Neighborhood Watch

(925) 973-3303

To report other miscellaneous information to the Police Department or other offices in the city visit our website at :

www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/general/online

Crime Prevention Unit

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(925)973-2794

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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.SANRAMON.CA.GOV

PROPERTY CRIME STATISTICS FOR AUGUST-OCTOBER 2007

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>TOTAL BY TYPE</u>
Stolen Vehicles	27
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	10
Auto Burglaries	77
Commercial Burglaries	30
Residential Burglaries	15
Grand/Petty Thefts	155



BE SAFE, NOT SORRY: PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST HOLIDAY CRIME

This year it seems the holiday season is on the fast track. The mall started putting up their holiday decorations as soon as the last trick or treat left, and I can honestly say it has expedited my holiday spirit! Crooks love the holidays, too, just as much or more than the rest of us. This season is the perfect opportunity for crime.

Our homes are decorated inside and out, our prize tree is loaded with sparkling gifts piled underneath. We drive around with our cars full of treasures we have bought for our loved ones; rushing around, careless and stressed out trying to get everything done before the big day. We overlook

the common sense we need to not become a victim of a crime.

Here are a few tips to make your holiday season safer.

When traveling:

- Get an automatic timer for your lights (interior and exterior).
- Ask a neighbor or friend to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Don't forget to have the mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it is a sure sign you're gone.

Call the San Ramon Police Department to request a vacation home

check while you are away (925-973-2700).

Shopping:

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- Park in well lighted areas.
- Be sure to lock your vehicle and place all valuables in the trunk.
- Remember to take your keys out prior to entering the parking lot – especially if you are shopping alone.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a debit or credit card whenever possible.

- Women, remember to close your purse and carry them close to your body; men try to carry your wallet in the front pocket to deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers.

Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

Don't let this holiday season stress you out. Make time to spend with friends and family, think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortunate or lonely.....AND do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody—
EXCEPT CRIMINALS!

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**YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE
WELCOME.**

**Want to know what is going on in
your neighborhood and get to
know your neighbors?**

**Start a Neighborhood Watch
group!**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.SANRAMON.CA.GOV